IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1. 121(b) by deleting the bracketed word or words and inserting the underlined word or words as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A plant root and bulb protection device having~~consisting of~~:

a. a continuous, non-composite, circumferentially closed tubular, substantially topologically plain, substantially non-rigid sheet liner, wherein the tubular sheet liner circumscribes

i. an interior side;

ii. an exterior side;

iii. an integral, non-composite closed bottom end;

iv. an open top end; and

b. wherein the tubular sheet liner comprises a plurality of elongated, ellipse-shaped apertures between the interior side and the exterior side, and the apertures are positioned in a pattern which is regular and repeating and is in an alternating anti-parallel orientation.

2. (Original) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, further comprising a closure means, capable of enclosing the top end.

3. (Original) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, further comprising an anchor means, capable of securing the tubular sheet liner to the ground.

4. (Original) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 2, wherein the closure means is capable of reversible enclosing the top end.

5. (Currently Amended) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 2, wherein the closure means is a tie.

6. (Currently Amended) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises a plurality rows of elongated ellipse-shaped apertures extending generally from the top end to the bottom end.

7. (Currently Amended) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of elongated ellipse shaped apertures further comprises a plurality of diagonally oriented ~~shaped~~ apertures.

8. (Currently Amended) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of elongated ellipse-shaped apertures further comprises alternating

rows of diagonally oriented ~~shaped~~ apertures wherein the diagonal shape is generally oriented from the top end to the bottom end in a left to right direction in a first row and wherein the diagonal ~~shape~~ orientation is generally oriented from the top end to the bottom end in a right to left direction in a second row.

9. (Original) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, wherein the apertures are capable of preventing passage of vermin from the exterior side to the interior side and wherein the aperture is capable of permitting passage of water from the exterior side to the interior side.

10. (Previously Amended) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, wherein the tubular sheet liner is comprised of plastic.

11. (Withdrawn) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, wherein the liner sheet is biodegradable.

12. (Withdrawn) The plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1, wherein the liner sheet is non-biodegradable.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for protecting plant roots and bulbs comprising insertion of a plant into the plant and root bulb protection device of claim 1 and insertion of the device into the ground.

14. (Withdrawn) The method for protecting plant roots and bulbs of claim 13, further comprising insertion of soil into the device of claim 1.